

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3770

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA QUIET. SOME PROGRESS ON NAKURU AGREEMENT

1. THE TWO WEEKS SINCE MY RETURN TO LUANDA HAVE BEEN MARKED BY THE ABSENCE OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE, ALTHOUGH THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES REPORTED THAT ISOLATED INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE WEEK OF JUNE 30-JULY 6 WAS VERY QUIET. THE PERIOD WAS DECLARED NATIONAL UNITY WEEK AND THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS PROMOTED A NUMBER OF ROUND TABLES, SEMINARS, CEREMONIES, MEETINGS AND ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN AN EFFORT TO STAMP OUT TRIBALISM, REGIONALISM AND RACISM, THE THREE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES TO A PEACEFUL AND UNITED ANGOLA, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA. THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE THREE MOVEMENTS MET TOGETHER IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS TO PLEDGE THEIR COMPLETE COOPERATION IN THE BUILDING OF THE NEW NATION AND TO URGE PROMPT FORMATION OF A NATIONAL ARMY. DESPITE THE CALM CAPTURES BY ONE MOVEMENT OF ELEMENTS OF THE OTHER CONTINUED BEATINGS WERE REPORTED AND ALL OBSERVERS NOTED THE SAME HOSTILE ATTITUDES BETWEEN FNLA AND MPLA.

2. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM CAME IN FOR
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THE WORST DRUBBING DURING THE WEEK. PORTUGAL, TOO, CAME UNDER

ATTACK; NOW THAT THE COLONIAL PERIOD IS ENDING SHE IS ACCUSED OF CULTURAL COLONIALISM. WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE MOVEMENTS GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS THEY CANNOT, IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACEFUL DIALOGUE, BLAME EACH OTHER FOR THE ILLS THAT AFFLICT ANGOLA, OR FOR THE MANY DEAD AND WOUNDED. HENCE, THE COMMON ATTACK ON THE ENEMY WITHOUT - IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM.

3. THE HIGH POINT OF THE WEEK WAS PROBABLY A BRIEF CELEBRATION BY THE PORT WORKERS ON JULY 5. THEY KNOCKED OFF A HALF HOUR EARLY TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THERE HAD BEEN NO WORK STOPPAGES OR LABOR STRIFE FOR TWO WEEKS. AT THE SLOW PACE THEY ARE WORKING NO ONE CAN TELL WHEN WORK STOPPAGES DO OCCUR.

4. THE LUANDA PRESS REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND OF JULY 6 AND 7 THE BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL ARMY WITH THE FORMATION IN CABINDA AND NOVA LISBOA OF COMPANIES COMPOSED OF ELEMENTS FROM THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY TELL ME THE ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE PREMATURE. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, THE COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN FORMED ARE INTEGRATED FORCES AS ENVISIONED BY THE ALVOR AGREEMENT. ONE COMPANY HAS BEEN FORMED IN CABINDA, THREE ARE TO BE FORMALLY INAUGURATED IN NOVA LISBOA, NINE MORE IN HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO, AND ADDITIONAL SIX IN CABINDA AND A TOTAL OF THREE IN SA DA BANDEIRA. NO PROVISION HAS YET BEEN MADE FOR SUCH FORCES IN LUANDA. THE NEW COMPANIES ARE MADE UP AT THE SQUAD, PLATOON AND COMPANY LEVEL ENTIRELY OF ELEMENTS OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. PORTUGUESE OFFICERS WILL ASSIST IN OPERATIONAL MATTERS AT BATTALLION LEVELS AND ABOVE. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT WE ARE SEEING A HYBRID, SOMETHING THE PORTUGUESE CAN CLAIM FULFILLS THE PROVISIONS OF ALVOR AND WHICH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CAN CALL A NATIONAL ARMY, WITHIN THE TERMS OF NAKURU, AS NO PORTUGUESE TROOPS WILL PARTICIPATE AT THE LOWER LEVELS.

5. THE PRESIDENTS OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ALL ISSUED MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL UNITY WEEK. JONAS SAVIMBI OF UNITA SAID THAT ANGOLA IS ONE NATION, DESPITE THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY INTO TRIBES. THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT SECESSION AND PARTITION ARE IMMATURE. UNITA NOT ONLY WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH PARTITION, IT WILL NOT PERMIT IT. UNITY IS BROUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT THROUGH STRUGGLE AND NOT MERE WORDS. UNITY MEANS NOT ONLY NATIONAL UNITY, BUT THE UNITY OF THE CONTINENT, AS WELL. HOLDEN ROBERTO OF FNLA SAID HE HAD FOLLOWED EVENTS DURING THE WEEK WITH GREAT INTEREST. NATIONAL UNITY, HE SAID, SHOULD BE A REALITY RIGHT NOW AND NOT JUST A GOAL. RACIAL, ETHNIC, LINGUISTIC AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, HE ADDED, ARE COMMON TO ALL NATIONS. ONE OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS AT HAND IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN IMPENETRABLE BARRIER TO THE IDEOLOGICAL

STRUGGLES OF THE GREAT IMPERIALIST POWERS. AGOSTINHO NETO, PRESIDENT OF MPLA, HAS YET TO MAKE A PRONOUNCEMENT ON THE SUBJECT. HE HAS BEEN TRAVELLING IN AFRICA SINCE THE NAKURU SUMMIT AND LATE LAST WEEK WAS IN BRAZZAVILLE CONSULTING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MPLA ELEMENTS. IN BRAZZAVILLE HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE NAKURU AGREEMENT IS A MATTER OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND NOT OF ANY OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

6. SAVIMBI WAS BUSY TRAVELLING DURING THIS PAST WEEK. HE VISITED KINSHASA AND BRAZZAVILLE AND THEN RETURNED TO ANGOLA TO CAMPAIGN IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS. MOST OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT MINISTERS WERE ALSO ON THE ROAD PROMOTING NATIONAL UNITY.

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7. THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL MORIBUND AND THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, VASCO VIENA DE ALMEIDA, SENT A SCATHING LETTER TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL IN WHICH HE SAID THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS DONE ALMOST NOTHING IN ITS FOUR MONTHS OF EXISTENCE EXCEPT REVEAL ITS ABSOLUTE INCAPACITY AND IRRESPONSIBILITY. WE WILL PROVIDE DETAILS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

8. THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW, WHICH IS TO SERVE ANGOLA AS AN

INTERIM CONSTITUTION UNTIL INDEPENDENCE AND BEYOND, HAS BEEN PROMULGATED. THE LAW CONTAINS 183 ARTICLES THAT DEAL WITH SOVEREIGNTY, THE ANGOLAN NATION, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY, SECURITY, DEFENSE, REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SEVERAL OTHER AREAS. I WILL DISCUSS THE LAW IN GREATER DETAIL IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

8. GOVERNMENT SOURCES TELL ME THAT THE ELECTORAL LAW WILL BE PROMULGATED WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. A DRAFT APPROVED BY THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL ON JULY 4. SEVERAL OFFICIALS HAVE INSISTED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ME THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. THE DETAILS HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT, THEY SAY, BUT ELECTIONS THERE WILL BE. THE FIRST STEP AFTER PROMULGATION OF THE ELECTORAL LAW, I UNDERSTAND, WILL BE TO SELECT A MIXED COMMISSION TO SET UP THE NECESSARY ELECTORAL MACHINERY.

9. THE MEETING I REPORTED IN LUANDA 0863 BETWEEN PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER, MELO ANTUNES AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS THAT WAS TO HAVE BEGUN ON JULY 8, HAS BEEN POSTPONED A DAY OR SO AT THE REQUEST OF MELO ANTUNES.
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